

County of Los Angeles  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

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BRYCE YOKOMIZO  
Director



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February 20, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bryce Yokomizo', written over the 'TO:' line.

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: **CURRENT STATUS OF THE IHSS PROGRAM**

I am pleased to share with your Board, a document recently prepared by our Department entitled, "IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES: PROGRAM SUMMARY."

IHSS provides personal care and domestic services to eligible aged, blind or disabled persons who are unable to perform those services themselves and who cannot safely remain in their homes if such services are not provided. Social Workers in the program assess the service needs of applicants and authorize the purchase of service hours. IHSS is funded by a combination of Federal, State, and County funds.

The IHSS program allows consumers to live safely at home rather than in costly and less desirable out-of-home placement facilities. The IHSS population is especially vulnerable, with an average age of 64 years, and with many over 80 years old. One-third of this population lives alone and many suffer from debilitating conditions that would require them to be institutionalized if not for this program.

The IHSS program has grown dramatically over the past 10 years, and now has over 157,000 consumers. This has been brought about as the Los Angeles County population ages and more of the elderly and disabled continue to live in their own homes. The number of IHSS cases now exceeds the number of CalWORKs cases, although there are more persons aided under CalWORKs. The data in this report documents various characteristics of the IHSS consumer and those who provide the needed services to them.

Our Department has a strong commitment to tracking data to improve outcomes for those receiving public assistance in our County.

BY:jl

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*



Department of Public  
Social Services  
Bryce Yokomizo, Director

January 2007



## IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES: PROGRAM SUMMARY

### Overview of IHSS

#### Background and Scope of Report

The In-Home Supportive Services Program (IHSS) provides personal care and domestic services to eligible aged, blind or disabled persons (*consumers*) who are unable to perform those services themselves and who cannot safely remain in their homes if such services are not provided. The purpose of the program is to allow these individuals to live safely at home rather than in costly and less desirable out-of-home placement facilities.

IHSS Social Workers assess the service needs of applicants to the program and determine:

- **Assessed Hours** – The hours in the 25 service areas that would permit independent living.
- **Authorized Hours** – The hours that consumers are authorized to purchase service needs. These hours may be adjusted from assessed hours in order to account for service needs that are provided by alternate resources.

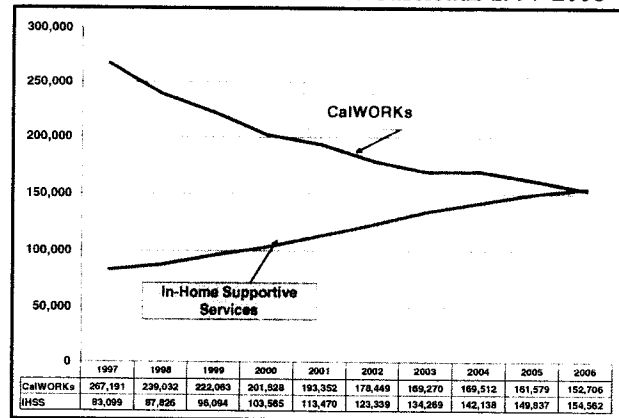
Consumers can be authorized to purchase as many as 283 hours of service needs per month. Consumers who are authorized to purchase 20 or more hours per week of Personal Care Services are considered **severely impaired**. Otherwise, they are considered **non-severely impaired**.

The California Department of Social Services and the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services pays for 85% of the administrative costs of the program. Provider wages for the personal care services program are paid through Federal (49.4%), State (32.9%) and County (17.7%) shares.

### The IHSS Population

The IHSS Program has grown from a caseload of 83,099 in 1997 to 154,562 in 2006 – a 6% annual rate of growth. The IHSS caseload now exceeds the CalWORKs caseload, although CalWORKs serves more individuals (Chart 1). The IHSS population is expected to reach 200,000 cases by the year 2010.

Chart 1. IHSS and CalWORKs Caseloads 1997-2006



Trend data come from October of each year, except 2006.

The 154,562 IHSS consumers (6,001 children) were qualified as aged, blind or disabled (Table 1).

Table 1. Aged, Blind and Disabled Population

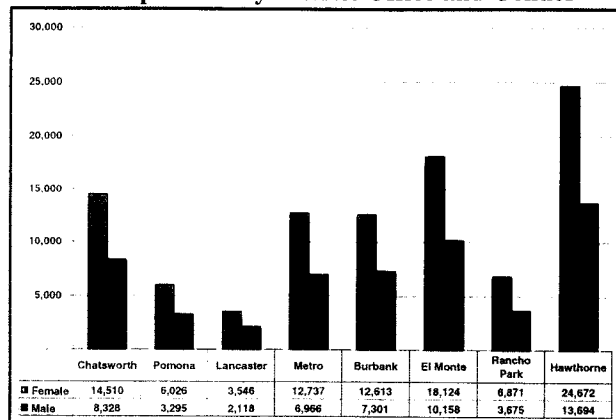
	Female	Male	Total
<b>Aged</b>	78,599	25,365	103,964
	54.1%	45.1%	50.9%
<b>Blind</b>	3,842	1,656	5,498
	2.2%	3.0%	2.5%
<b>Disabled</b>	72,121	28,828	100,949
	43.7%	52.0%	46.7%
<b>Total Population</b>	154,562		

The IHSS population by Supervisorial District is:

- **District 1** 31,313 (20%)
- **District 2** 36,521 (24%)
- **District 3** 33,367 (22%)
- **District 4** 18,838 (12%)
- **District 5** 34,523 (22%)

IHSS consumers are assisted through eight (8) district offices located throughout Los Angeles County and varying in the size of their consumer population (Chart 2).

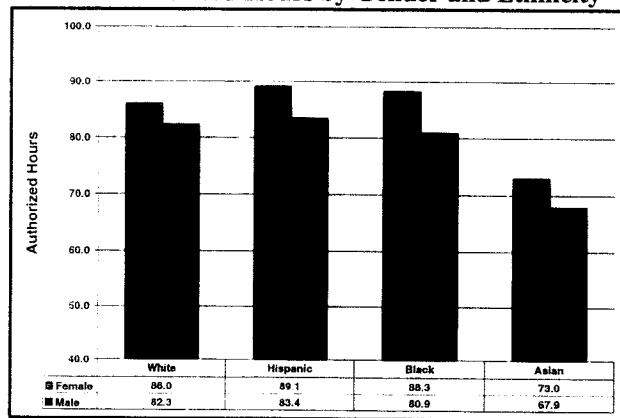
**Chart 2. Population by District Office and Gender**



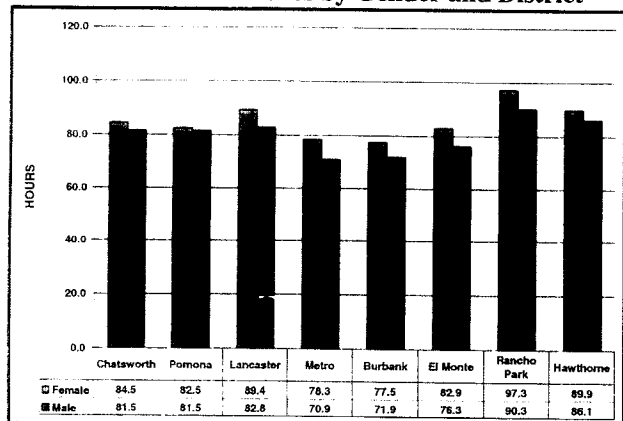
### Authorized Hours

The distributions of hours that consumers are authorized to purchase are shown by gender and ethnicity (Chart 3), gender and district office (Chart 4), and severity and district office (Chart 5). Females (84.8 hours) are generally authorized more hours than males (79.7 hours). The severely impaired received more hours (125.4 hours) than those not severely impaired (66.6 hours). There are also variations across ethnic groups and district offices.

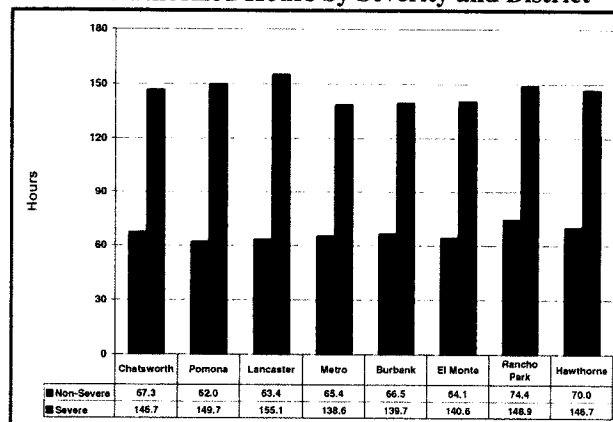
**Chart 3. Authorized Hours by Gender and Ethnicity**



**Chart 4. Authorized Hours by Gender and District**



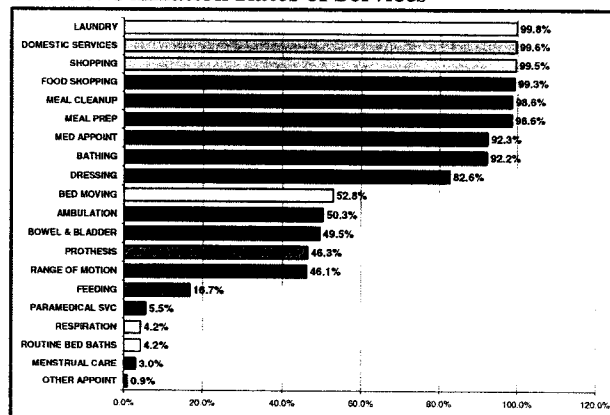
**Chart 5. Authorized Hours by Severity and District**



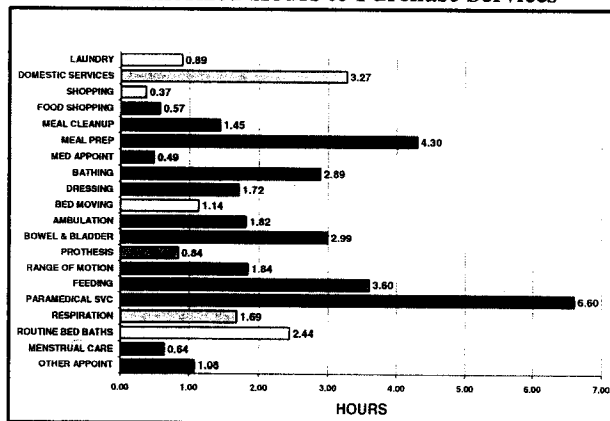
### Service Needs

IHSS provides services in 25 areas. Chart 6 shows the utilization rates for 20 of these services, while Chart 7 shows the average authorized hours for those who receive that service. Basic domestic needs (laundry, shopping, meals, etc.) are received by nearly all consumers, but tend to be authorized fewer hours. A smaller fraction receives personal care services, but on average, is authorized more hours.

**Chart 6. Utilization Rates of Services**



**Chart 7. Authorized Hours to Purchase Services**



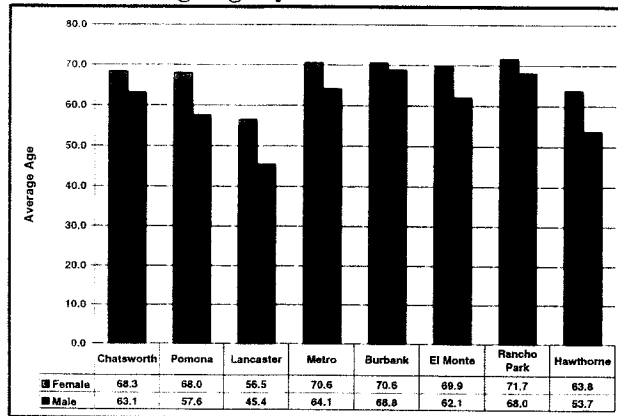
## Demographic Characteristics of Consumers

Distributions in age, gender, ethnicity, language and living arrangements of the IHSS population provide a window into the population served.

### Age and Gender

The average age of the IHSS consumer is 67.9 years for females and 60.8 years for males. These averages vary across district offices (Chart 8), with Lancaster having the youngest group and Rancho Park the oldest.

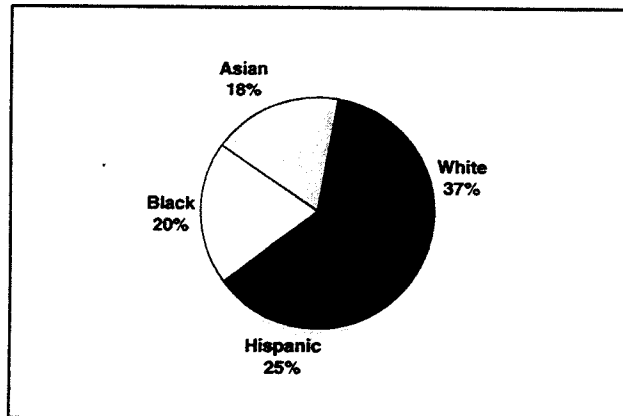
**Chart 8. Average Age by District Office and Gender**



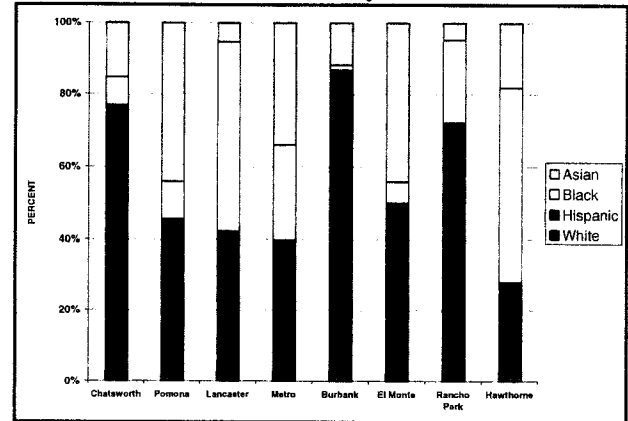
### Ethnicity

There are four major ethnic groupings receiving IHSS services (Chart 9). These reflect the diverse nature of the Los Angeles County population, and contain no single majority, although Whites (37%) are the largest group. Various district offices have widely varying ethnic distributions (Chart 10), with some group concentrations that vary from office to office.

**Chart 9. Ethnic Distribution**



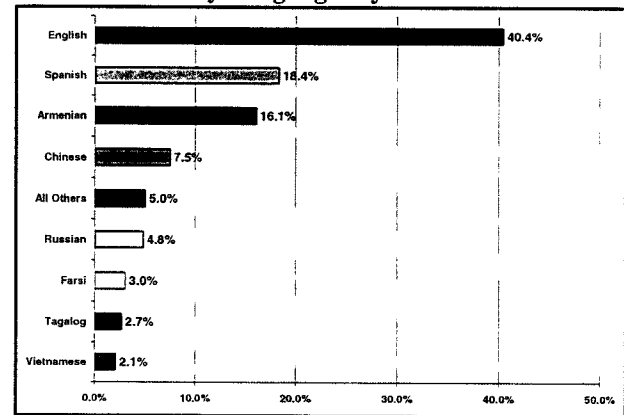
**Chart 10. Ethnic Distribution by District Office**



### Languages

There were 29 primary languages spoken by IHSS consumers, and the top 8 are shown below (Chart 11). A majority (59.4%) are other than English.

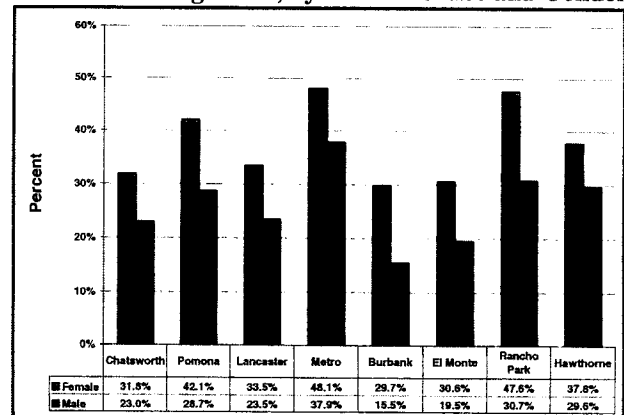
**Chart 11. Primary Languages by Percent**



### Living Arrangements

Thirty-two percent of all IHSS consumers live alone, with females (36%) far more likely than males (24%) to do so (Chart 12).

**Chart 12. Living Alone, by District Office and Gender**



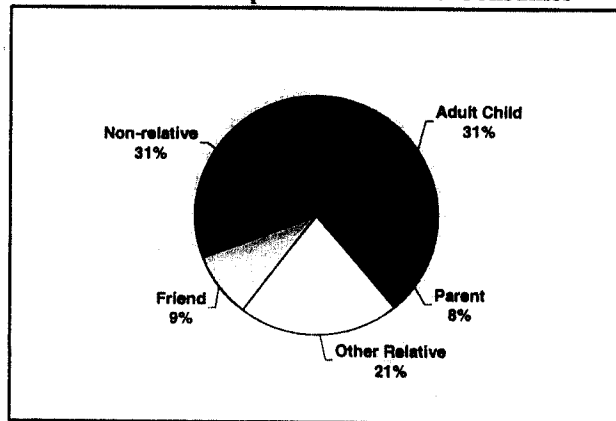
### Summary on Demographic Characteristics

The charts on population and demographic characteristics show the incredible diversity in the IHSS population across age, gender, ethnicity, languages and living arrangements. Each district office has a distinct distribution in these characteristics.

### Profile of Service Providers

In December 2005, there were 121,405 providers and 7,325 of these cared for more than one consumer. Women were 77% of providers and men were 23%. Over 60% of the providers were related to the consumers they served (Chart 13). Less than 3.0% of consumers had a spouse as a paid provider. The average female provider was 46.3 years old and the average male provider was 43.4.

**Chart 13. Relationship of Provider and Consumer**



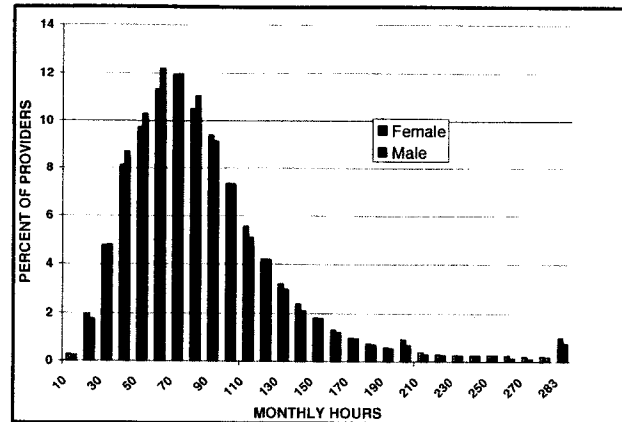
The providers, like the consumers they serve, are very diverse, ethnically and by language. Whites (25%) were the largest ethnic group among the providers who indicated an ethnic identity, followed by Hispanics (22%), Blacks (15%), and all Asian groups (12%).

The language distributions are similar to those of the consumers. The primary language is English (58.5%), which means that the providers are more likely than the consumers to claim English.

### Hours Worked by Providers

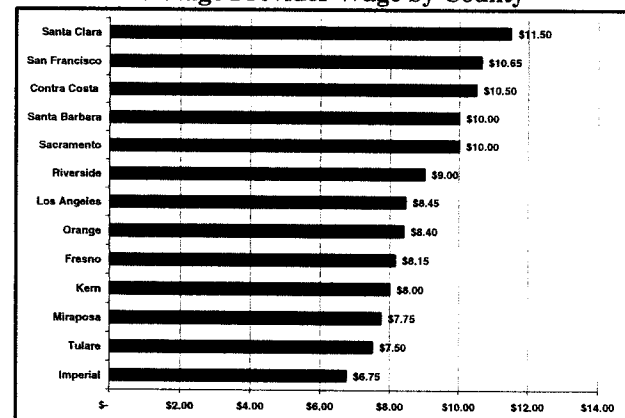
Providers are paid wages of \$8.45 an hour and can work as many as 283 hours per month for one consumer. Female providers averaged 81.5 hours, while males averaged 78.9 hours. The vast majority of providers work between 50 and 110 hours a month (Chart 14). Providers who work the average number of hours earn \$688 or \$666 a month for females or males, respectively.

**Chart 14. Distribution of Hours Worked**



Each county sets provider wages, with some counties paying as much as \$11.50 an hour and others the State minimum wage of \$6.75. Los Angeles County has the largest provider population in the State, but its wage, \$8.45, is towards the lower end of the wage spectrum (Chart 15).

**Chart 15. Average Provider Wage by County**



### Summary of Report

The IHSS Program provides support for the most vulnerable population in Los Angeles County. By making provider services available, many in this population are able to postpone becoming institutionalized. The IHSS program is very diverse ethnically and in languages. Providers who care for this population, however, tend to work relatively few hours and receive low wages for their services.

This Report was prepared by Henry E. Felder, Ph.D., Assistant Director of DPSS. The Report is based on data from the California Case Management and Payrolling System (CMIPS) for July 2006, and from several years' of data from the Department's Statistical Reports.